ECLIPSE COMICS
mini-series
№ 3 of 6
$2.00
CANADA
$2.75
LOST PLANET

The PENUMBRA

WRITE TO: ECLIPSE COMICS - P.O. BOX 1099 - FORESTVILLE - CALIFORNIA - 95436

ON THE RACKS

SCOUT no. 23
Scout and Rosa hold the high ground against the Mexican invaders!

KAMUI nos. 8 & 9
The threats to Kamui's life continue in Japan's no. 1 ninja comic!

THE LIBERTY PROJECT no. 4
The Liberty Project attempts to recapture Nelson Aviation's new super-weapon!

AIRBOY nos. 29 & 30
Airboy, Hirota, Iron Ace and the Heap battle Manic and the Road Rats, as the siege of the monastery continues!

FUSION no. 5
Dow and the crew fight against terrible odds in the conclusion to the "Soulstar Commission!"

CALIFORNIA GIRLS no. 4
Find out how Smidgin became the smallest and most intelligent cat in the world. Plus, paper dolls galore!

AREA 88 nos. 8 & 9
Rumors of "gold" and a "crashed plane" send the Area 88 pilots on a foolhardy treasure hunt.

MAI THE PSYCHIC GIRL nos. 8 & 9
The extent of Mai's powers leads her to expect dire consequences.

STRIKE! no. 2
Dennis tests out his power suit. Plus, the original Sgt. Strike appears in a Golden Age reprint!

LOST PLANET no. 3
The power behind Zorrin's throne is unveiled and all hell breaks loose in Wystman's Woods!

PROWLER no. 3
Scott and Leo enter the stronghold of zombie master Murder Legendere. Plus, the Prowler's 1930s origin continues!

CROSSFIRE no. 25
The story of the world's greatest stuntman and how he never once risked his life.

WINTERWORLD no. 1 (of 3)
New Series!
Scully's drifting life changes for the worse when he meets Wynn. Bold science fiction by Chuck "Airboy" Dixon and Jorge Zaffino.

ZOT! no. 14½
Antisocialman has turned Zot into... Antisocialzot, and is now bent on turning the entire world Antisocial!

REID FLEMING, WORLD'S TOUGHEST MILKMAN no. 2 (2nd Printing)
Issue nos. 1 & 2 sold out! Reid is HOT! Here's your second chance, don't miss out!

TWISTED TALES no. 1 *New Series!*
Bruce Jones is back writing horror in this squarebound semi-annual title. Cover by Dave Stevens!

HAND OF FATE no. 1 *New Series!*
Mysterious fatal accidents at a lighthouse bring Artemus Fate, psychic detective, to investigate!

MIRACLEMAN no. 12
The history-making Book III continues! By Alan Moore and John Totleben.

DETECTIVES INC. no. 2 (of 3)
Denning and Rainier find adultery, greed, and murder in high society.

MAN OF WAR no. 2
Chicago is struck by a rash of street-walker murders, and all clues point to our hero!

QUICK TRIP THROUGH THE OFFICE: It's job realignment time again at the old hacienda, so here's the rundown in brief:

New Interns: John Defalque, a Hoosier journalism student, is our summer editorial department intern. Lynn Buckman, art teacher, interns in the production department.

New Job: Sean Deming has been promoted to Distribution Manager. This is on top of the jack-of-all-trades editing, production work and convention appearance organizing he's been handling for a couple of years. Sean is streamlining the distribution system and increasing our contact with fanzine editors, convention promoters, retailers and distributors. If you need to reach him on business matters call (707) 887-1521 and ask for him by name!

New Employee: Stephen Scott Beau Smith, once known as The Letterhack With the Longest Name in America, is now working for us as a Sales Representative, covering orders and reorders around the country. This is in addition to his scripting duties on *Beau LaDuke's Tips for Real Men* in the *Scout* series. Beau Smith is the person Tim Truman based the Beau LaDuke character on, by the way, so you *Scout* readers already know just how handsome and manly this guy is!

Same Old Jobs: Letitia Glozer, Fred Burke and yours truly continue to rope together most of the editing around here, with Mack Fraga still Production Manager and Dean Mullaney still the Publisher (he's editing just a couple of titles also). Jan Mullaney, Madelyn Feinberg, and Bruce Palley are, as always, holding down the New York office. Other editors (Lex Nakashima, Ken Pierce, Tim Truman, Mark Evanier, April Campbell & Bruce Jones) carry on as usual.

Gosh, that was simple, wasn't it?

YOUR INPUT REQUESTED: Guess the whole world knows by now that our three bi-weekly Japanese *manga* titles are big sellers and the first few issues of each have gone into second printings. Most asked question of the summer is: "Are You Going To Be Doing Any More Japanese Comics?" The answer is YES.

Second most asked question: "Which Ones?" Answer: YOU TELL US!

And that's exactly what I want you to do. Get a postcard and on it write the names of your THREE favourite Japanese *manga*. Send it to MANGA BALLOT, Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California 95436.

We cannot guarantee that the American publishing rights to the *manga* you request will be available, of course, but we intend to pursue the most-often-requested titles with an eye to bringing them to the United States before the year is over! So vote RIGHT NOW, while we're still in negotiation!

(Scoop of the Week: One of the three new *mangas* we publish will be a bi-weekly, and the other two will probably be monthlies.)

SUMMER POSTER OFFER: Once again we have printed a bunch of full-colour summer posters for your collection. There are seven of them, and all are available right now: *Kamui the Ninja, Area 88, Mai the Psychic Girl, Detectives Inc., Sisterhood of Steel, California Girls* and *The 4Winds Line* (the latter is a BIG Tim Truman piece, with smaller cover repros along the bottom depicting *Prowler, Hotspur, The Scout Handbook, Strike!*, and *Winterworld*). This year we request that you order ALL SEVEN posters at once. They are FREE, but you pay postage. Just put $1.07 in United States stamps on a 9 by 12 inch self-addressed manila envelope and send it to POSTER OFFER, Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, California 95436. You'll be glad you did!

catherine yronwode

LOST PLANET™ no. 3, September 1987. Published bi-monthly by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 1099, Forestville, CA 95436. Letitia Glozer, Editor. Catherine Yronwode, Editor-in-Chief. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. Lost Planet: story and art ©1987 Bo Hampton. "Devil's Eye," story ©1987 Bunny Hampton. Art ©1987 Rick Bryant. Lost Planet TM Bo Hampton. All other material ©1987 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. Film by SM Graphics. For licensing information contact Dean Mullaney.

NEVER... NEVER TRUST ANY CONTRAPTION MADE BY HUMAN HANDS... ESPECIALLY WAGONS...
...ESPECIALLY WAGONS WITH WHEELS THAT BREAK!!
RIGHT! YOU SHOULD RELY MORE ON US "LOWER" LIFE FORMS!
GOOD ADVICE...
...I WILL! I'LL RELY ON LIGHTNING HERE TO FETCH ENOUGH FOR A COACH TICKET HOME!
C'MON, CHEER UP, AMBROSE! EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FINE... I'M POSITIVE!
"POSITIVE" IS BEING MISTAKEN AT THE TOP OF YOUR VOICE! SEE HERE, BIRD...
...THE NEXT DAMN VILLAGE BIG ENOUGH FOR A COACH STOP IS COLDWATER --THIRTY LEAGUES AWAY!
CACKLE CACKLE!
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT THE NEWCOMER WAS IN COLDWATER...
...AND THAT YOU COULD BE THERE IN A MATTER OF A FEW HOURS??
I'D ASK HOW YOU CAME BY THIS PRICELESS INFORMATION, YOU CHUCKLE-HEADED NIT-WIT!
HUNH?
WAAUGHH!!
A BIG BIRD TOLD ME.
1

...CRATER HAS GONE TO COLDWATER TO COLLECT THE NEWCOMER. HOWEVER, I'M NOT SURE HE CAN BE TRUSTED...
...AS MY REPRESENTATIVE, HE'LL BE WEARING A MASK OF THE CLAN OF ZORRIN.
ZORRIN, WHEN WILL YOU RELEASE ME FROM THIS CURSE?

PART 3

STUDIO

AHH, YOU DON'T CARE FOR YOUR PRESENT FORM, *MINERVA*? SUCH IS THE PRICE OF *BETRAYAL*, MY DEAR.
YOU WILL STAY CLOSE TO CRATER. HE WANTS SOMETHING FROM THE *NEWCOMER*, AND I WOULD KNOW OF IT.
ALSO, SHOULD CRATER BE UNABLE TO RESTRAIN HIS *ZEAL* AND *MURDER* THE NEWCOMER-- THEN HE, HIMSELF, MUST FEEL THE STING OF YOUR *POISONED TUSKS*. DO THIS ONLY IF ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY... CRATER CAN STILL BE OF *USE* TO ME.

story+art
Bo Hampton
coloring
Tom Littlejohn
lettering
Tracy Hampton
editing
Letitia Glazer

LOOK, FLYNN--I CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU SLEPT FOURTEEN HOURS STRAIGHT!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW JUDGE CRATER, HIMSELF, WOULD SHOW UP TO COLLECT FEALTY FOR ZORRIN??
YEAH, BUT THESE CLOTHES ARE RIDICULOUS! WHY ARE WE SO WORRIED ABOUT THIS CRATER GUY, ANYWAY?
HIS CRUELTY IS LEGENDARY AND HE'S PROBABLY LOOKING FOR YOU!! WE'D NEVER BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF TOWN IN OUR NORMAL DRESS. NOW KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
SO NOW WE'RE DISGUISED AND AMBROSE IS DISGUISED! NOBODY'S GONNA FIND ANYBODY! WHAT A PLAN!
SHHH!
LET'S JUST GO BACK--PAY OUR INN BILL--PICK UP MAX AT THE STABLE, AND LEAVE, OKAY?!
BELIEVE ME, MISTER--I WANT TO FIND AMBROSE AS BADLY AS YOU DO--BUT I'M NOT GONNA COMMIT SUICIDE TO DO IT!
AT LEAST WE WERE ABLE TO SELL SOME OF OUR SUPPLIES TO PAY THE INNKEEPER...
...THE OLD LECH IS GONNA HAVE TO SETTLE FOR PAYMENT IN COIN AFTER ALL... HIS WIFE WILL BE HAPPIER, AND MY JOY KNOWS NO BOUNDS!
3

MISS, I'M A WEARY TRAVELING PHYSICIAN...COULD YOU DIRECT ME TO THE NEAREST INN??
GLAD TO, DEARIE. GOIN' THAT WAY M'SELF, MATTER A' FACT...
...AND WHO KNOWS, MAYBE YOU'RE NOT AS TIRED AS YOU THINK YOU ARE, EH, DOC?
I REQUIRE DIRECTIONS ONLY, MISS...
...MIND YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE, OLD MAN!!
INNKEEPER--OH, INNKEEPER!
MY LORD CRATER...OUR FEALTY IS POOR. ALAS, WE'VE HAD FEW TENANTS OF LATE...BUT PERHAPS YOU AND YOUR MEN WILL PAY US THE HONOR OF ACCEPTING WINE AND A HOT MEAL BEFORE YOU GO...
DAMN YOUR MONEY AND DAMN YOUR HOSPITALITY!!
?UFF!?
--THEN--MY WIFE, PERHAPS?! HERE IS MY WIFE.
THE NEWCOMER, MAGGOT--WHERE IS HE?!!
THEY SNUCK OUT EARLIER TODAY, MY LORD--BILL UNPAID!! I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY WENT, I SWEAR!!
STRAP HIM DOWN.
4

WHAT'S ALL THIS?
SILENCE!! THE HONORABLE JUDGE CRATER IS MERELY QUESTIONING THE INNKEEPER REGARDING THE NEWCOMER'S WHEREABOUTS.
NNoooo!!
JUDGE CRATER?!! DAMN! ARE THERE ANY OTHER WRENCHES YOU'D LIKE TO THROW INTO THE WORKS, GOD?
WELL, I'LL SEE YA, DOC.
HMM... WHAT'S THIS?? A GIANT EARWIG... HOW NICE!
N-N-NOO!! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--IF THEY WERE HERE I'D GIVE 'EM TO YOU GLADLY! YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME...
NO... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... I DO BELIEVE YOU... BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS DONE. TURN HIS HEAD...
EEYAIII!
LOOK, I'VE GOT TO HELP HIM... HE LET US STAY THERE KNOWING IT WAS RISKY--FREE OF CHARGE!
UH-UH! THAT GUY WANTED--
MISS!!
I COULDN'T HOLD HIM BACK, MISS. I'LL GET YOUR MOUNTS.
I'M RESPONSIBLE, Y'KNOW? YOU AND MAX STAY HERE. DON'T WORRY--I'VE GOT A PLAN!
HE'S RIGHT, DAMMIT!!! YOU BROUGHT MY BOW, MAX? GOOD BOY... ONE ARROW, HUH? OH, WELL, C'MON!
WHAP!!
5

PAPA!! DON'T WORRY, I'LL SAVE YOU, PAPA!
:HUNH?: THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE NEWCOMER!!
SPAKK!
HA! HA!! HA!!
WHAT A FOOL!
WELL DONE, RASTUS!
STAY BACK!!
DON'T MAKE ME PLUG YOU WITH MY-- FIRESPITTER!!
LOOK OUT!!
FLARE GUN, YOU MEAN.
CRRACK!
YES, MR. FLYNN, YOU AND I HAVE ANOTHER PLANET IN COMMON...
...NOW WHAT I NEED FROM YOU IS A GEM--
--THE EMERALD WHICH BROUGHT YOU HERE -- LIKE THIS ONE.
MY LORD...
6

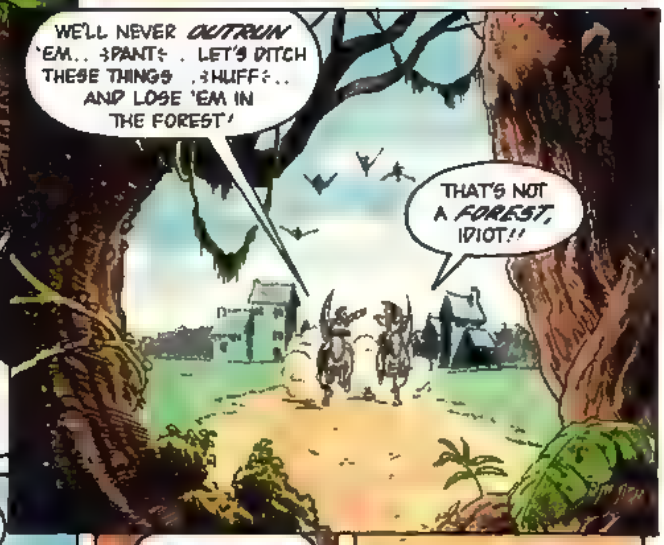
DON'T MOVE, CRATER! I'M NOT LIKELY TO MISS AT THIS RANGE...
...GO AHEAD, MAX.!
CLASP YOUR MEDALLION AROUND THE APE'S NECK... GENTLY.
AHH... IT SEEMS I'M BEING THREATENED BY TINKERBELL...
...YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A KILLER TO ME, GIRL...
YOUR MEN COULD SPEAR ME... BUT NOT BEFORE I GIVE YOU A SET OF GILLS!
BE CAREFUL, MAX.
YOU'LL NEVER LEAVE THIS TOWN ALIVE, GIRL...
...BE STILL, DAMN YOU!
SHE'S GONNA SHOOT HIM! I'M DEAD!...
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'D LIKE IT BACK... COME DOWN, GIRL, IF YOU VALUE YOUR HAIRY FRIEND'S HEAD...
STALEMATE.
IF I SURRENDER, WE'RE ALL DEAD!! IF MAX'LL JUST HOLD STILL...
...HERE GOES...
ZZZIP!

RUN, MAX!!
YOWW!!
THKK!
WACK!
UMPP!!
YOUR MOUNTS ARE READY, SIR!!
HANG ON, MAX!
HEY, ROMNEY!!
HERE!
SON OF A--
BITCH!
STICK HER!!
UFF!
8

GOOD PLAN, FLYNN!
SHUT UP AND RIDE!!

BRING THEM BACK TO ME ALIVE!! OWWW!!
INNKEEPER! GET ME A DOCTOR!!
YES, M'LORD!

PERHAPS A HUMBLE TRAVELING PHYSICIAN CAN BE OF SERVICE, MY LORD CRATER?
AFTER THEM!!
VERY WELL! HELP ME INTO THE. :UGH! INNKEEPER'S :GASP: ROOM, GOOD. DOCTOR


WE'LL NEVER OUTRUN 'EM.. :PANT: . LET'S DITCH THESE THINGS :HUFF:.. AND LOSE 'EM IN THE FOREST!
THAT'S NOT A FOREST, IDIOT!!

WELL.?? WHAT THE HELL IS IT?
THAT'S WYSTMAN'S SWAMP. A BAD PLACE!

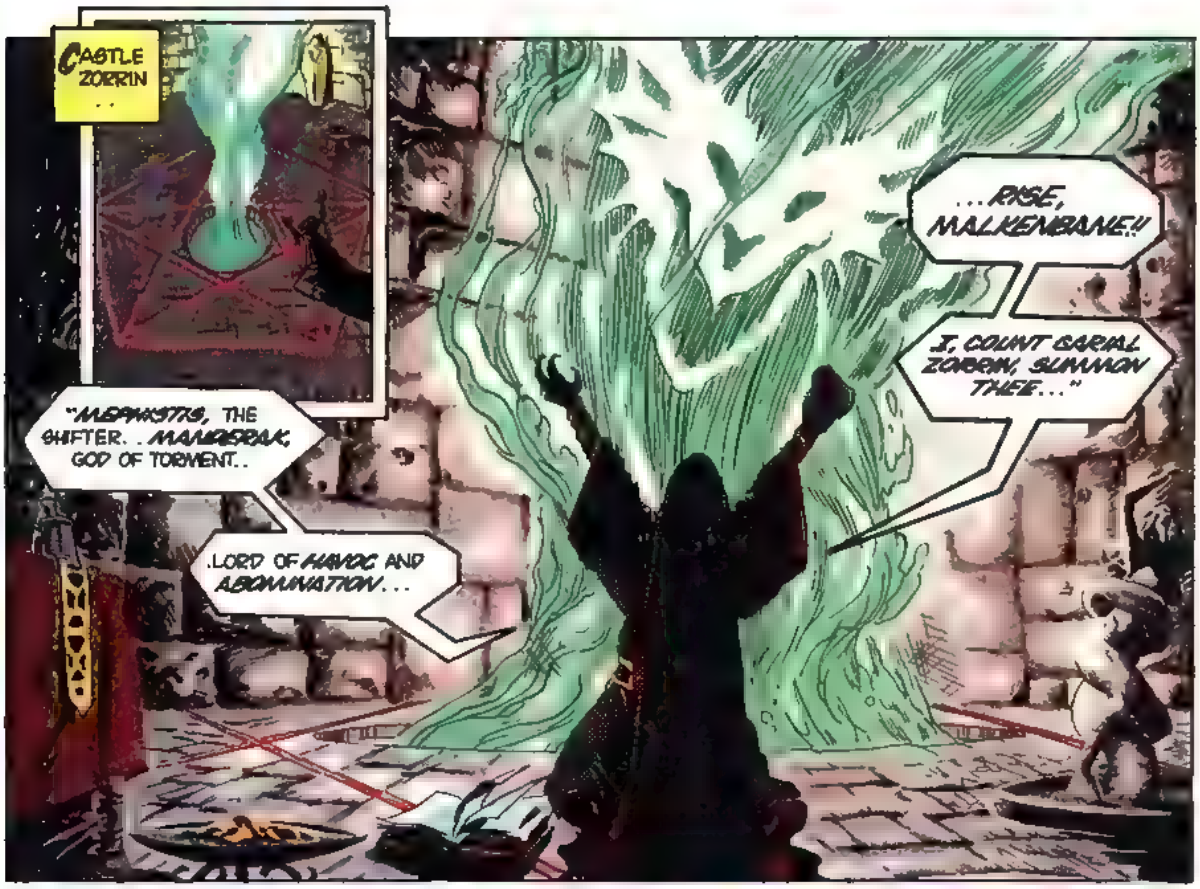
GOT A BETTER IDEA??
I WISH TO HELL I DID!

HURRY UP, DOCTOR--BUT BE CAREFUL!
AND NO TRICKS --IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE!
FEAR NOT, YOUR HONOR... I ONLY WISH TO SERVE

THEY'VE GONE INTO THE SWAMP, CAPTAIN!!
I KNOW.
WE HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER, LIEUTENANT
I'D RATHER FACE THE SWAMP THAN JUDGE CRATER ANY DAY!
MEANWHILE...
KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN AND WATCH YOUR STEP
WE HAVE TO CROSS HERE!
AS THE PURSUIT QUICKENS
CAPTAIN, THIS MUCK IS SO THICK I CAN BARELY SEE!
QUIET! WHAT'S THAT?!
FALL BACK!!

IT GOT THE CAPTAIN!! MOVE!!
RRGAARRR!
DID YOU HEAR THAT SCREAM??
JUST KEEP MOVING
WHA??
ROMANEY! LOOK OUT!!
HANG ON, ROMNEY!
GRGGLRGG
I'M COMING
I GOTCHA!
CUT ME LOOSE!!

NOW, CLIMB UP THE VINE MOVE!!
GULK
EECRCCACHH
:OOH:-:OOH:-!
EEEPP!!
:GULP:-!
YOU SAVED MY LIFE!!
THANK YOU.
. TYLER.

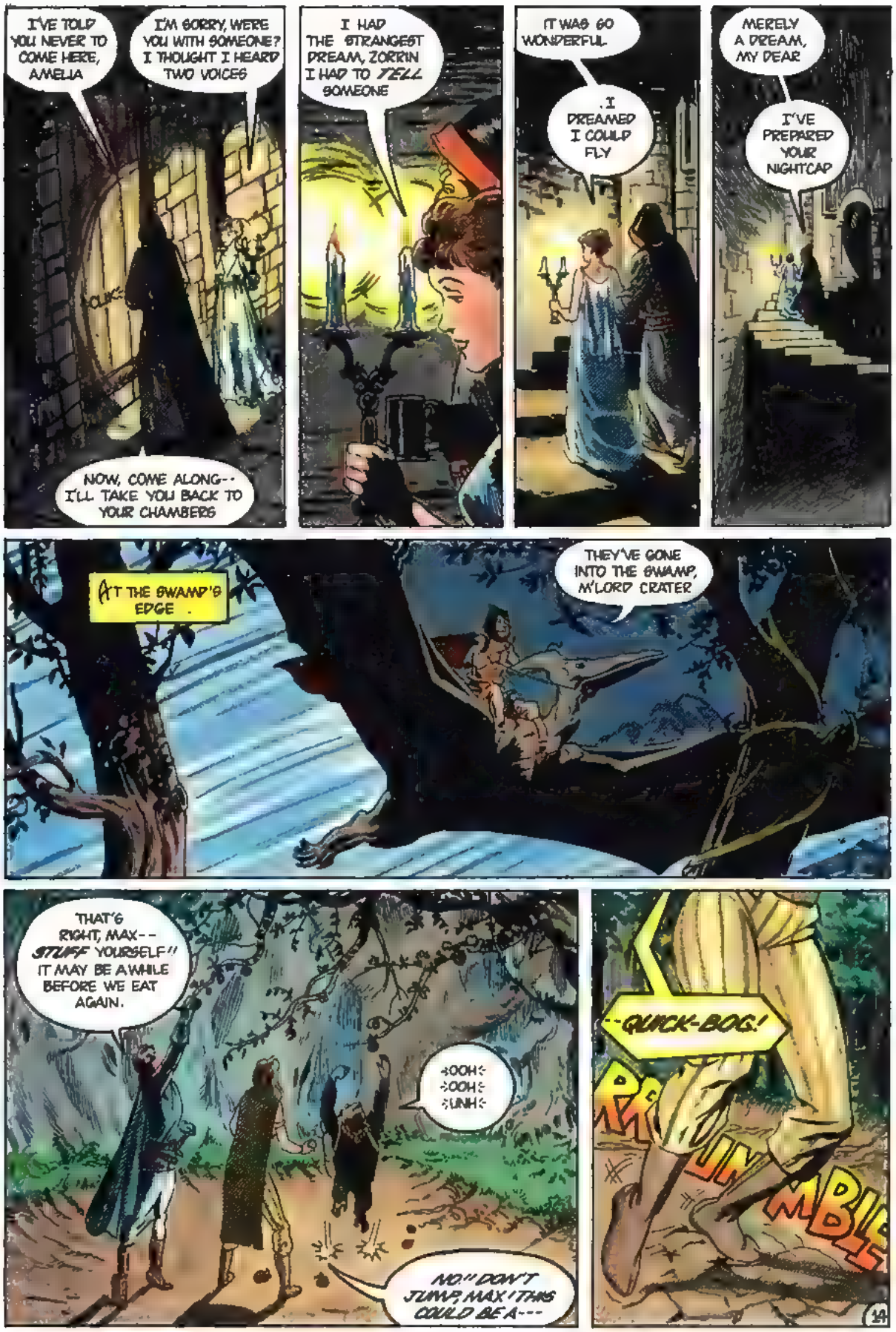

CASTLE ZORRIN . .
"MEPHISTIS, THE SHIFTER. . MAMBRAK, GOD OF TORMENT. .
.LORD OF HAVOC AND ABOMINATION. . .
. . . RISE, MALKEMBANE!!
I, COUNT CARAL ZORRIN, SUMMON THEE. . . "

SPEAK, VASSAL
"I READY THIS WORLD FOR THY COMING.
THE DAY IS NIGH WHEN THOU SHALT RISE UP FROM THE PIT TO WALK AMONG MEN AND TAKE THEM UNTO THEE . . IN RAPTUROUS UNION WITH THE SOUL OF ALL EVIL. THY HUNGER IS MY OWN "

THAT LITANY NEVER FAILS TO REJUVENATE ME, ZORRIN HOW CAN I HELP YOU?
CRATER HAS LONG PARTAKEN OF THE WATERS FROM THE SACRED WELL, AND YET I FEAR HE IS NOT A FAITHFUL VASSAL
SHALL I HAVE HIM DRINK MORE OFTEN?
HE IS AN EARTH MAN BUT STILL HE IS A MAN. HE WILL SUCCUMB IN TIME . AS WILL THE WOMAN AMELIA.

TAP TAP

SLEEP WELL, MY LORD
"MAY THE NIGHTMARE NEVER END"


I'VE TOLD YOU NEVER TO COME HERE, AMELIA
I'M SORRY, WERE YOU WITH SOMEONE? I THOUGHT I HEARD TWO VOICES
NOW, COME ALONG-- I'LL TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR CHAMBERS
I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM, ZORRIN I HAD TO TELL SOMEONE
IT WAS SO WONDERFUL
I DREAMED I COULD FLY
MERELY A DREAM, MY DEAR
I'VE PREPARED YOUR NIGHTCAP
AT THE SWAMP'S EDGE
THEY'VE GONE INTO THE SWAMP, M'LORD CRATER
THAT'S RIGHT, MAX-- STUFF YOURSELF! IT MAY BE A WHILE BEFORE WE EAT AGAIN.
:OOH: :OOH: :UNH:
NO! DON'T JUMP, MAX! THIS COULD BE A---
--QUICK-BOG!
RRRUMBLE
14

OVER THERE!
IN SECONDS THE UNSTABLE GROUND COVER DISSOLVES INTO A DEADLY QUAGMIRE. AND EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENTS CAUSE ITS VICTIMS TO SINK FASTER AND FASTER
DON'T MOVE, MAX
HOW SAD, THEY'RE CAUGHT IN A BOG
:TSK: :TSK:
VERY UNFORTUNATE.
LISTEN, GUYS... MAYBE WE COULD WORK SOMETHIN' OUT, HUH?
ROMNEY!
AYE! LET'S HAVE THE WENCH FIRST-- WHAT SAY ALL?
YEAH, I'LL TAKE HER FIRST!
LIKE HELL YOU WILL!
THAT WOULD BE A SERIOUS ERROR IN JUDGEMENT, RASTUS
JUDGE CRATER, I--
SILENCE!
THE VINE WILL STRETCH TO THE EDGE OF THE BOG FORM A HUMAN CHAIN AND GET THEM OUT!
Y-YES, M'LORD

BE QUICK ABOUT IT, MEN!
HOLD TIGHT, RASTUS
GRAB MY ARM, TROLLOP!
FORGET IT!!
WE'D RATHER DROWN THAN FALL INTO CRATER'S BLOOD-STAINED HANDS!
TO HELL WITH THAT..
. REACH OVER THIS WAY, FELLA!
UGGH! I STILL CAN'T REACH THEM, LORD CRATER
ZHOP!
NEVER MIND!
YOU'VE DONE QUITE WELL, GENTLEMEN YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE
HUH?
THAT'S IT, WORK YOUR WAY UP THE BULL-WHIP!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T HARM YOU!
WHAT TH-?
MY LORD CRATER, WHY? HAVE WE NOT SERVED YOU WELL?

TOO WELL, IT WOULD SEEM
HUH?
THE OLD FOOL!!
NO FOOL LIKE AN OLD FOOL, EH, RASTUS? THAT'S TRUE, I SUPPOSE... AS FOOLS GO, THE OLD ONES CAN BE MUCH MORE CUNNING!
DAMN YOU!!
EEYAGGH!!
FRANTICALLY, THE DRAGON-RIDERS CLAMBER OVER EACH OTHER.. SINKING EVER DEEPER INTO THE PIT
UNTIL FINALLY, MERCIFULLY, THE SCREAMING STOPS
AMBROSE! I THOUGHT THAT TRAVELLING PHYSICIAN LOOKED FAMILIAR!! WELL, ZORRIN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS
DAMN!! I MISSED!
THAT LITTLE BUZZARD IS ONE OF ZORRIN'S MINIONS! SKEWER IT IF IT SHOULD COME BACK!!
CAREFULLY THE QUARTET RETRACES ITS STEPS OUT OF THE DEADLY SWAMP..
HERE'S OUR TRANSPORTATION. I'LL GO AHEAD AND RELEASE YOUR MOUNTS.
DON'T WORRY! ANYBODY CAN FLY THESE FOOL THINGS.
EE-YURP!
CRATER WAS QUITE DELIRIOUS FROM MY PAIN-KILLER, SO WE SHOULD HAVE A HEALTHY HEAD-START!
17

MR FLYNN, YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW OF ME... BUT I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU HIGH AND LOW
I DON'T BELIEVE IT
YOU WOULD CALL ME A PREVARICATOR, SIR?
ER WHAT'S THAT?
A LIAR IN THE CATERPILLAR STATE
N-NO, SIR ..IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR GOOD FORTUNE
:HARUMPH!:
VERY WELL WHO'S THE PRETTY MUTE?
ROMNEY RIFKIND . AND THIS IS MAX
THE APE'S NECKLACE LOOKS EXPENSIVE. SHALL I HOLD IT FOR HIM? I'D HATE TO SEE YOU LOSE IT.
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT. THANKS JUST THE SAME
AS YOU WISH
SPUR YOUR MOUNTS . .THEY'LL FOLLOW MY LEAD!
EEYAHH!
I HATE THIS SOOOO MUCH!! WHERE ARE WE GOING ANYWAY, AMBROSE?
HOME, FLYNN ..HOME.
NEXT ISSUE: THE PLOT THINS OUT A BIT--AND THEN THICKENS AGAIN!
18

ALSO, ROMNEY'S EARLY DAYS ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT HAMPTON!!!

TOP OF THE NEWS

ECLIPSE PRESS — FORESTVILLE, CALIFORNIA — SEPTEMBER MCMLXXVII

SELL-OUT SUMMER CONTINUES . . .

ECLIPSE OVERSHIPS 5 NEW TITLES

Hoping to avoid the barrage of titles which were forced back to press due to June sell-outs, publisher Dean Mullaney has decided to overship on key July issues of five new summer series. The first issue of *Prowler* will be overshipped by 25 percent, and the second issues of *Hotspur, Liberty Project, Lost Planet,* and *Aza* will be overshipped by 20 percent.

"Fan response has been really strong to the titles we've debuted this summer," says Mullaney, "and we want plenty of copies on hand to satisfy this increased demand." Heavy reorders last month took Eclipse back to press on ten different books. "We're happy to go back to press when demand warrants, but we'd much rather have the copies in the stores for immediate sale," says Mullaney.

Any overshipped books that haven't sold in ninety days are fully returnable, "though," laughs distribution manager Sean Deming, "that's not highly likely. Fan demand this summer has been at a real high. These books are as diverse a line-up as you could get, held together only by a strong commercial appeal and overall quality."

Prowler, a masked avenger comic from *Scout's* Tim Truman and *Fashion In Action's* J. K. Snyder III, has had very strong advance word of mouth. *Hotspur* reteams Truman and John Ostrander, the creators of *Grimjack. The Liberty Project,* by Kurt Busiek, James W. Fry, and Doug Hazlewood, has garnered rave reviews and enthusiastic letters from super-team fans. *Lost Planet* features the fan favourite art of Bo Hampton. And *Aza,* the post-apocalyptic barbarienne, is written by *Airboy's* Chuck Dixon and drawn by Enrique Romero, the man who made her a legend in Europe.

Captain Eo Hits Stores In August

The long awaited 3-D *Captain Eo* comic will ship no later than August 4, according to distribution manager Sean Deming. "The delay was due to waiting for approval from everyone involved," he said. The comic is an adaptation of a 3-D film starring Michael Jackson, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, and produced by George Lucas. The movie can only be seen in special theatres at Disneyland and Epcot Center.

The regular edition retails for $3.50. The souvenir edition, an oversize version that will be sold at Disneyland and Epcot Center, retails for $6.95 and will also ship to comics stores in early August.

Liberty, Lost Planet, Enchanter All Hot

Valkyrie!, Scout, Contractors, Terror Join Manga 2nd Runs On Sold Out List

Retailers hit the nail on the head when they dubbed the 1982 convention season as "Eclipse's sell-out summer." Those who underestimated the high summer demand for Eclipse titles have been running to their distributors to reorder, only to find in some cases that it's too little, too late. "The new series are starting to take off," says editor-in-chief Cat Yronwode, "and by the time the slower retailers realize it, faster hands will have already grabbed up the thousands of extra copies we've printed." New books already affected include *Liberty Project, Lost Planet, Enchanter, Valkyrie!, Contractors, Kamui, Mai,* and *Area 88.*

Last month, *Valkyrie* #1 and *Scout* #18-19 sold out, and Eclipse was forced back to press on *Miracleman* #11, *Red Fleming* #1-2, *Kamui* #1-3, *Mai* #1-2, and *Area 88* #1-2. This month, *Valkyrie* #2, *Scout* #16-17, and the second printings of *Kamui* #1-3, *Mai* #1-2, and *Area 88* #1-2 join the list of sold out titles, but sell-out activity has spread from the *Valkyrie!/Scout*/manga core to include *Contractors* #1, *Tales of Terror* #12, *Enchanter* #1, *Liberty Project* #1, and *Lost Planet* #2.

"*Lost Planet* #2 was overshipped on a returnable basis, so distributors may still have copies available," says distribution manager Sean Deming. "We just can't get copies of those other titles, however. Of course, anything not on the sold out list (above) is still available for reorders. I'm expecting another list of sold out titles next month, though. Retailers should take a good hard look at what's moving and get their reorders in immediately."

"Retailers who were burned by last year's black and white glut have a tight cash flow right now, and we understand that," says publisher Dean Mullaney. "This recent flurry of reorder activity is a direct result of overly cautious ordering. Unfortunately, we have to set our print runs near the level of initial orders. When a book becomes hot and retailers underorder, we all lose sales."

Consistent sell-outs on *Scout* over the last four months are merely a prelude to *Swords of Texas* and *New America,* the two new mini-series that will spin off this fall from *Scout* #24, the last issue of that series. When *Swords* and *New America* conclude this winter, *Scout: War Shaman* will begin the all new adventures of Timothy Truman's hard-hitting hero. "Fan anticipation is really heating up sales on all the *Scout*-related titles," says editor Yronwode. "Many retailers are going to be hard-hit to provide back issues when *War Shaman* takes off in January."

Winter World Features "Next Al Williamson"

Argentinean Zaffino Makes American Comics Debut

Winter World, a three issue mini-series, is the next title to join the 4Winds line from Eclipse. Jorge Zaffino, a popular artist in Argentina, makes his American debut on the book, much to the delight of writer Chuck Dixon. "It just looks real good," he says. "It's very realistic, very gritty, and also very dynamic."

Editor Tim Truman gives Zaffino terse praise: "He could be the next Al Williamson," he says.

Dixon—who writes *Airboy, Strike!, Aza, Savage Sword of Conan,* and *Evangeline*—has created a brutal future for the denizens of *Winter World.* "The earth is entirely frozen over," he says. "It's hundreds of years in the future, and present day civilization is all but forgotten. Scully, the main character, is a trade rider. He travels from one little pocket of civilization to the next, trading goods that he finds in shopping centers and malls under the ice."

Winter World #1, a full-colour, monthly, Baxter mini-series, ships September 22 and retails for $1.75.

Xyr Introduces Multiple Ending Craze To Comics

Graphic Novel Changes Each Time You Read It

The first multiple ending comic debuts when *Xyr,* a 48-page, full-colour, square-bound comic book, hits the stands in October. "These sorts of projects have done very successfully in bookstores," says distribution manager Sean Deming, who also edited *Xyr.* "It was about time someone did a comics story with multiple endings."

In *Xyr,* the reader makes a variety of choices for the lead character, each of which takes the story in a different direction. There are nine possible stories in the volume, but each begins with the disappearance of August Chiller, who sets off in search of the mystical paradise of Valcan. His wife calls on Xyr, the only being who can possibly save her husband.

"This has been the most difficult challenge I've faced as an editor," says Deming. Each scene must be carefully tailored so it fits into a variety of story continuities.

Xyr is a full-colour, 48-page, square-bound comic book. It retails for $3.95 and ships October 27.

Prowler #3 Features "History" of Eclipsogram Pictures

Lobby Cards, Still Photos Bring Kragg's Story To Life

Michael H. Price, co-author with George Turner of *Forgotten Horrors* and writer of the 1940s *Prowler* back-up, has combined both his interest in motion picture scholarship and the bizarre world of Leo Kragg in *Prowler* #3. That issue features what purports to be an excerpt from *Neglected Gems of The Horror Cinema* by George Michaels, detailing the history of Kragg's involvement in film.

The fake book entry explains Leo Kragg's ownership of Eclipsogram Pictures and the series of motion pictures about the Prowler which were filmed in the Forties and Fifties. Also included are lobby cards, complete with photos from *On The Prowl,* the most successful Prowler film.

"We found an actor here in Ft. Worth, Bob Allen, who not only wears the Prowler costume well, but also looks remarkably like Graham Nolan's drawings of Leo," says Price. "We had the mask tailored to his face and decked him out in clothing fashionable in the early Forties. It wasn't until I compared him side by side with Graham Nolan's character sheets that I realized how striking a resemblance there was—the hairline, set of the jaw, the intense eyes, and what Chuck Dixon calls 'a mouthful of teeth.'"

Prowler #3, a 4Winds production, retails for $1.75 and ships September 13.

Stig's #7 Last Issue

Templeton Decides To End Hit Series

Although its sales were solid and it was rapidly achieving cult status, *Stig's Inferno* has ended with issue #7. Acclaimed by many as one of the only worthwhile black and white humor comics, *Stig's* was a strong addition to Eclipse's Quality Black and White Graphics line, which published the last two issues of the book.

"For various personal reasons, I didn't think I could make it funny anymore," says Ty Templeton. Templeton co-created the book with Klaus Schoenefeld, who died unexpectedly of a heart attack last year. "I owed it to him (Stig) not to do it if I couldn't make it funny."

Publisher Dean Mullaney, who edited the book, counted it among his favorites, as did many in the Eclipse offices. "*Stig's* was just a brilliantly funny piece of work," says Mullaney. "I'm sorry Ty doesn't feel he can keep it up, but we all wish him luck in whatever he chooses to pursue."

ON DECEMBER 25, 1913, AMBROSE BIERCE, CONVINCED THAT HE WAS UNLIKELY TO LIVE MUCH LONGER, DECIDED TO GIVE HIMSELF A SPECIAL AND VERY SATISFYING CHRISTMAS PRESENT: THE GIFT OF PLAYING ONE LAST HOAX ON THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HE HAD HARANGUED FOR OVER FORTY YEARS.

HE DECIDED HE WOULD DIRECT THE MANNER IN WHICH POSTERITY REMEMBERED HIM. TO VANISH UTTERLY FROM SIGHT--ENSHROUDED IN A VEIL OF MYSTERY--WAS HIS PLAN.

UNKNOWINGLY, HE FOLLOWED, INSTEAD, THE PLAN OF ONE MORE WILLFUL EVEN THAN HE--*DESTINY*--WHO WAS LEADING HIM QUIETLY AND INVISIBLY, BUT UNDEVIATINGLY INTO THE...

DEVIL'S EYE

KIRYL, I'VE CONCLUDED THAT MR. VILLA CAN NOW HANDLE THIS WAR WITHOUT MY AUGUST PRESENCE. I *COULD* RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND TRY TO MAKE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR PRESIDENT WILSON, I SUPPOSE BUT HE'S SO *PLODDING!*

NOT NEARLY AS MUCH FUN TO GOAD AS TEDDY ROOSEVELT WAS

AGE IS A DISTINCT LIABILITY FOR A CRITIC.

NO, THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME THERE

COME WITH ME--FOR A REAL ADVENTURE IN MY VILLAGE I CAN REPAY YOU FOR TWICE SAVING *MY* LIFE BY LENGTHENING *YOURS.*

IN THE TIME I'VE HAD *SO* FAR, KIRYL, I'VE LOST A WIFE, TWO SONS, ALL MY PATIENCE--WHICH WAS A MEAGER STORE TO BEGIN WITH--

MANY FRIENDS, MUCH MONEY, AND COUNTLESS OPPORTUNITIES WHY DO I FIND THE PROSPECT OF A *LONGER* LIFE LESS THAN ENCHANTING?

WE NEED YOUR HELP, AMBROSE I WAS SENT OUT TO FIND A MAN OF WISDOM AND HONESTY AND--

YOU NEED TO TRY A DIFFERENT PLANET

WHEN YOU FIRST TAUGHT ME YOUR DIALECT YOU MENTIONED A ..A *MONSTER* OF SOME SORT THAT YOUR PEOPLE FEAR WELL BY AGE *AND* INCLINATION, I AM WONDERFULLY UNSUITED TO ALTERCATIONS WITH MONSTERS.

AGE WILL MEAN *NOTHING* TO YOU WHEN YOU HAVE PERFECT HEALTH--A TREASURE FAR GREATER THAN THE RICHES THESE MEXICANS DREAM OF FINDING IN EL DORADO.

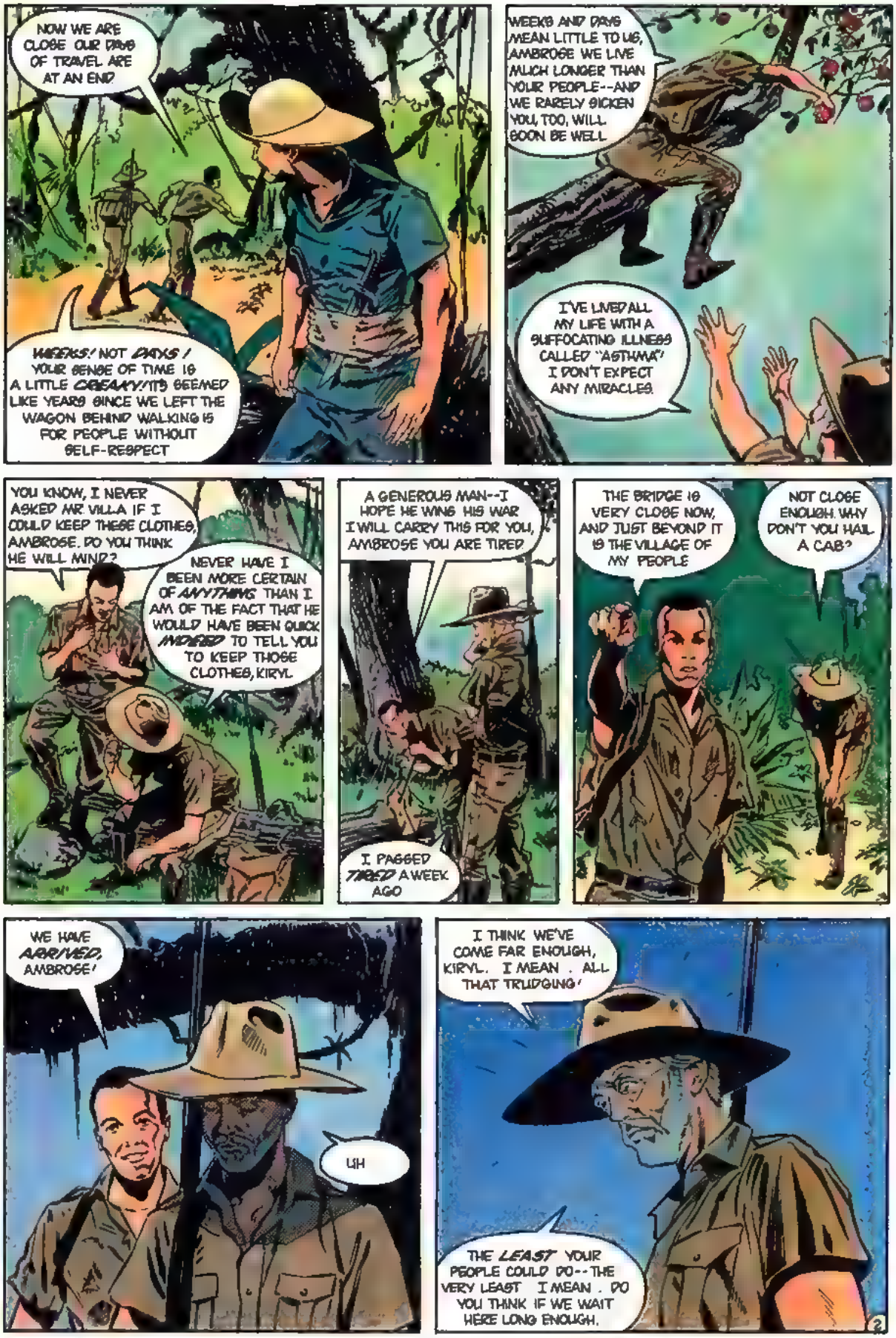
EL DORADO!!

SHALL WE BEGIN?

THERE'S NOTHING MORE AMUSING THAN CAUSING CONSTERNATION.

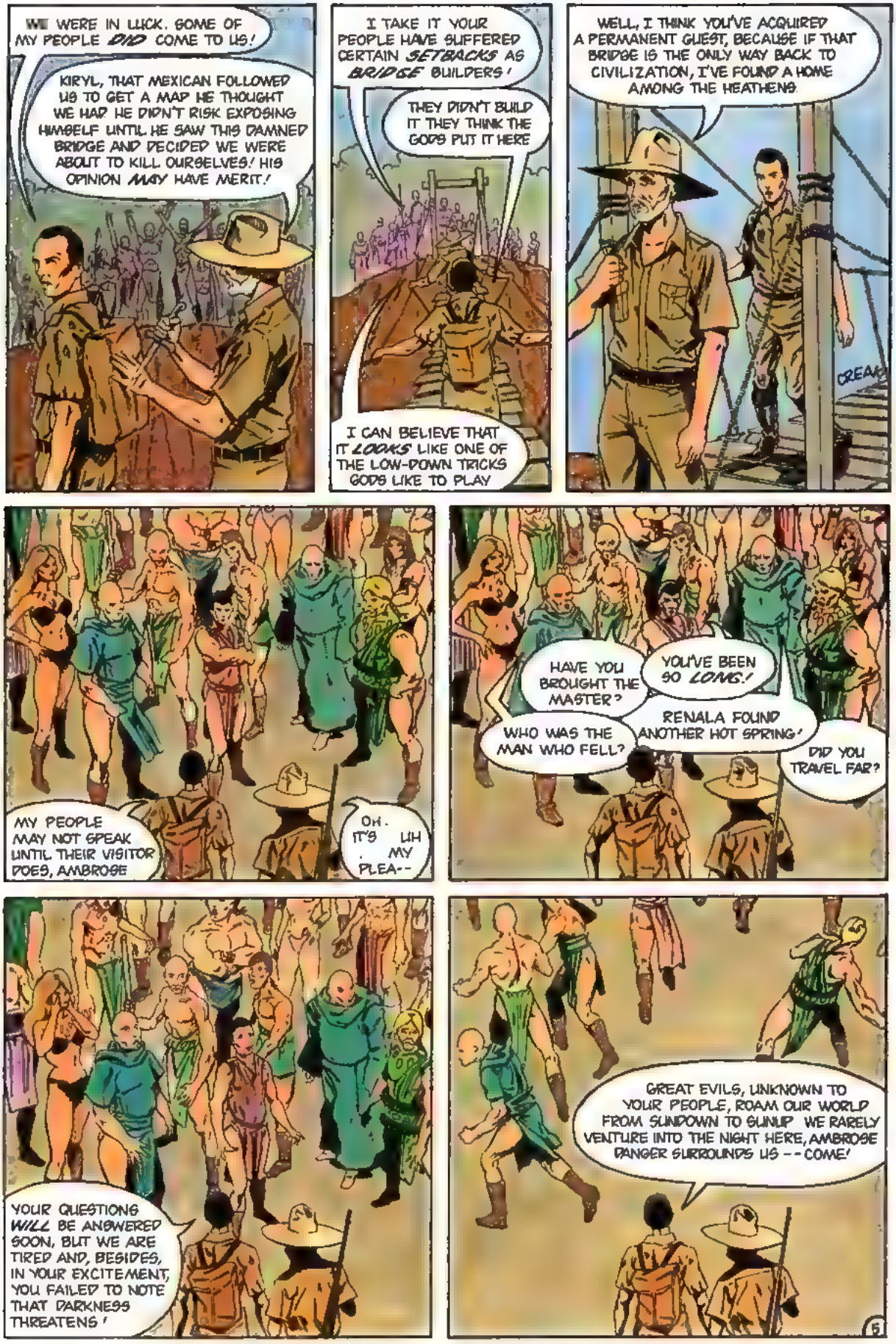
..AND MY DISAPPEARANCE SHOULD CAUSE AT LEAST *SOME* BACK HOME

LET'S "BORROW" A WAGON

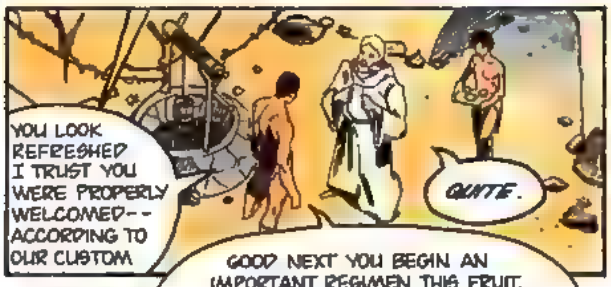

NOW WE ARE CLOSE OUR DAYS OF TRAVEL ARE AT AN END
WEEKS! NOT DAYS! YOUR SENSE OF TIME IS A LITTLE QUEASY! IT'S SEEMED LIKE YEARS SINCE WE LEFT THE WAGON BEHIND WALKING IS FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT SELF-RESPECT
WEEKS AND DAYS MEAN LITTLE TO US, AMBROSE WE LIVE MUCH LONGER THAN YOUR PEOPLE--AND WE RARELY SICKEN YOU, TOO, WILL SOON BE WELL
I'VE LIVED ALL MY LIFE WITH A SUFFOCATING ILLNESS CALLED "ASTHMA" I DON'T EXPECT ANY MIRACLES
YOU KNOW, I NEVER ASKED MR VILLA IF I COULD KEEP THESE CLOTHES, AMBROSE. DO YOU THINK HE WILL MIND?
NEVER HAVE I BEEN MORE CERTAIN OF ANYTHING THAN I AM OF THE FACT THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN QUICK INDEED TO TELL YOU TO KEEP THOSE CLOTHES, KIRYL
A GENEROUS MAN--I HOPE HE WINS HIS WAR I WILL CARRY THIS FOR YOU, AMBROSE YOU ARE TIRED
I PACKED THREE A WEEK AGO
THE BRIDGE IS VERY CLOSE NOW, AND JUST BEYOND IT IS THE VILLAGE OF MY PEOPLE
NOT CLOSE ENOUGH. WHY DON'T YOU HAIL A CAB?
WE HAVE ARRIVED, AMBROSE!
UH
I THINK WE'VE COME FAR ENOUGH, KIRYL. I MEAN . ALL THAT TRUDGING!
THE LEAST YOUR PEOPLE COULD DO--THE VERY LEAST I MEAN . DO YOU THINK IF WE WAIT HERE LONG ENOUGH.
2

. . . YOUR PEOPLE MIGHT COME TO LIFE!

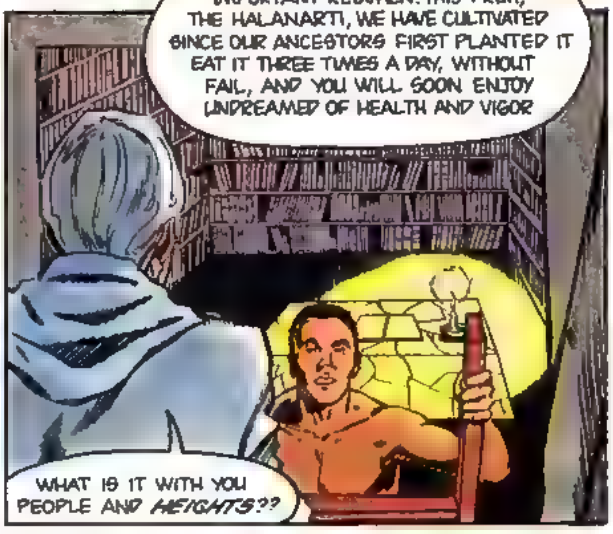
MY GOD!
DAME EL MAPA DE EL DORADO ANTES QUE TE MATES !!
UHH... WHAT MAP?!
AAGGGHH!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD .
HELP ME???
4

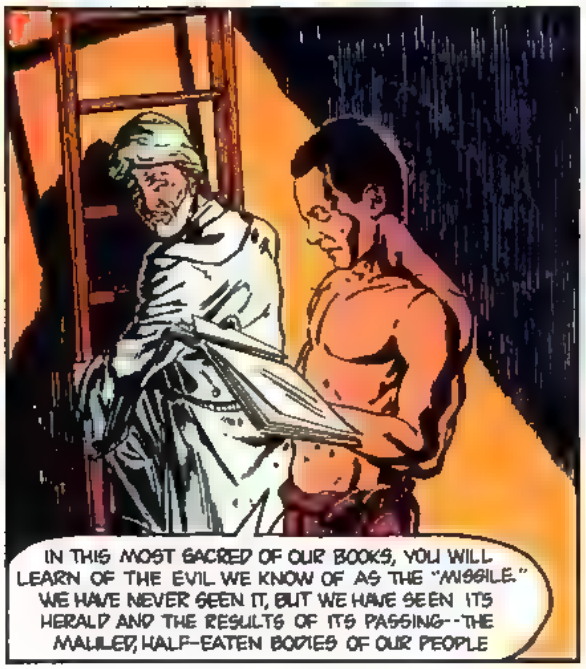

WE WERE IN LUCK. SOME OF MY PEOPLE DID COME TO US!
KIRYL, THAT MEXICAN FOLLOWED US TO GET A MAP HE THOUGHT WE HAD HE DIDN'T RISK EXPOSING HIMSELF UNTIL HE SAW THIS DAMNED BRIDGE AND DECIDED WE WERE ABOUT TO KILL OURSELVES! HIS OPINION MAY HAVE MERIT!
I TAKE IT YOUR PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED CERTAIN SETBACKS AS BRIDGE BUILDERS!
THEY DIDN'T BUILD IT THEY THINK THE GODS PUT IT HERE
I CAN BELIEVE THAT IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THE LOW-DOWN TRICKS GODS LIKE TO PLAY
WELL, I THINK YOU'VE ACQUIRED A PERMANENT GUEST, BECAUSE IF THAT BRIDGE IS THE ONLY WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION, I'VE FOUND A HOME AMONG THE HEATHENS.
CREAK
MY PEOPLE MAY NOT SPEAK UNTIL THEIR VISITOR DOES, AMBROSE
OH. IT'S UH. MY PLEA--
HAVE YOU BROUGHT THE MASTER?
YOU'VE BEEN SO LONG!
RENALA FOUND ANOTHER HOT SPRING!
WHO WAS THE MAN WHO FELL?
DID YOU TRAVEL FAR?
YOUR QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED SOON, BUT WE ARE TIRED AND, BESIDES, IN YOUR EXCITEMENT, YOU FAILED TO NOTE THAT DARKNESS THREATENS!
GREAT EVILS, UNKNOWN TO YOUR PEOPLE, ROAM OUR WORLD FROM SUNDOWN TO SUNUP WE RARELY VENTURE INTO THE NIGHT HERE, AMBROSE DANGER SURROUNDS US -- COME!
6

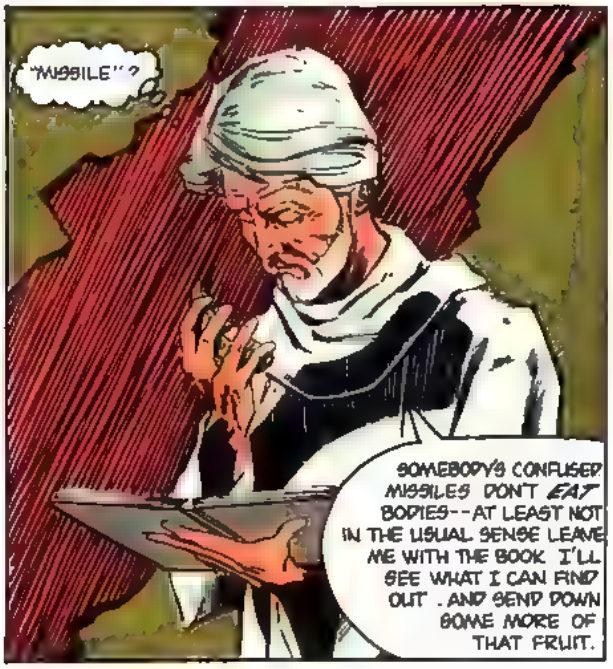
YOU NEED REST AND RENEWAL. I WILL HELP YOU, MASTER
"AMBROSE" WILL DO, MADAM.
"AMBER-ROSE"?
CLOSE ENOUGH


YOU LOOK REFRESHED I TRUST YOU WERE PROPERLY WELCOMED--ACCORDING TO OUR CUSTOM
QUITE.

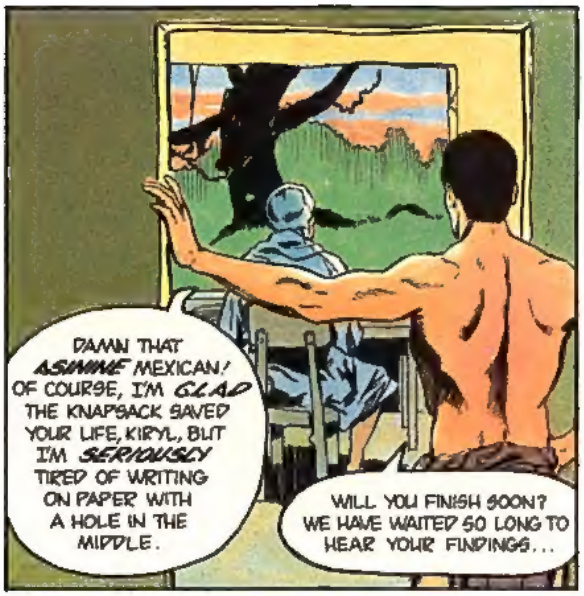
NEXT, I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO THE TEACHINGS, AMBROSE. THIS WAY
ONE BITE OF HALANARTI HASN'T DONE *TOO* MUCH, KIRYL. MY "VIGOR" ISN'T UP TO CLIMBING INTO WINDOWS. WHERE'S THE DOOR?
THERE ISN'T ONE
MARVELOUS


GOOD NEXT YOU BEGIN AN IMPORTANT REGIMEN. THIS FRUIT, THE HALANARTI, WE HAVE CULTIVATED SINCE OUR ANCESTORS FIRST PLANTED IT EAT IT THREE TIMES A DAY, WITHOUT FAIL, AND YOU WILL SOON ENJOY UNDREAMED OF HEALTH AND VIGOR
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU PEOPLE AND *HEIGHTS*??


IN THIS MOST SACRED OF OUR BOOKS, YOU WILL LEARN OF THE EVIL WE KNOW OF AS THE "MISSILE." WE HAVE NEVER SEEN IT, BUT WE HAVE SEEN ITS HERALD AND THE RESULTS OF ITS PASSING--THE MAULED, HALF-EATEN BODIES OF OUR PEOPLE

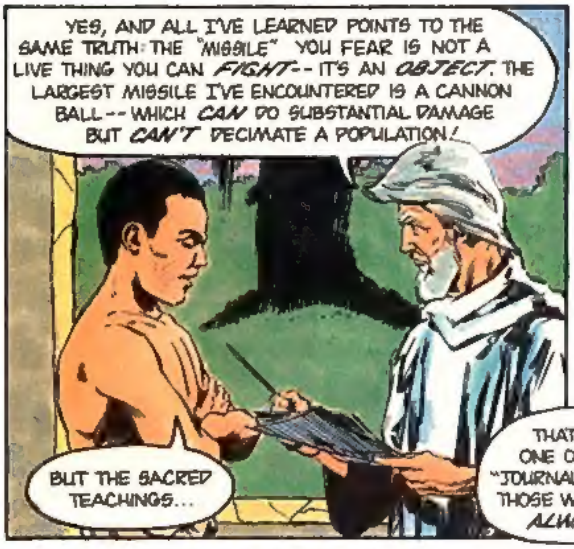

"MISSILE"?
SOMEBODY'S CONFUSED. MISSILES DON'T *EAT* BODIES--AT LEAST NOT IN THE USUAL SENSE. LEAVE ME WITH THE BOOK. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT. AND SEND DOWN SOME MORE OF THAT FRUIT.

"WE WERE UNABLE TO BRING MUCH WITH US IN OUR HURRY, BUT THE PLANTS FROM HOME ARE THRIVING. THOSE OF US WHO MADE IT ARE--THANKS TO THE FRUIT--HALE AND HEARTY."
SO THAT'S WHERE THE NAME OF THE "HALANARTI" COMES FROM...
"IT IS TOO VAST A HORROR TO DWELL ON WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR OUR PEOPLE. THE MISSILES WILL ARRIVE AT NIGHT--WITHOUT WARNING--AND DESTROY OUR WORLD. UNTHINKABLE, BUT INEVITABLE--WE CANNOT HARBOR THE SLIGHTEST HOPE THAT IT WILL BE OTHERWISE."
AMBROSE! I'VE CALLED YOU THREE TIMES. YOU MUST COME UP NOW. IT'S NEARLY DARK!
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! COMING, MOTHER!
COME ON!
UNFATHOMABLE! I HAVEN'T RUN LIKE THAT SINCE CHILDHOOD! JUST YESTERDAY EXERTION LIKE THAT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE MEANT A DEATH-DEALING ASTHMA ATTACK--AND NOW I'M HARDLY OUT OF BREATH!
IT'S THE HALANARTI.
BLESS IT! I CAN BREATHE!
7


DAMN THAT ASININE MEXICAN! OF COURSE, I'M GLAD THE KNAPSACK SAVED YOUR LIFE, KIRYL, BUT I'M SERIOUSLY TIRED OF WRITING ON PAPER WITH A HOLE IN THE MIDDLE.
WILL YOU FINISH SOON? WE HAVE WAITED SO LONG TO HEAR YOUR FINDINGS...

NEXT TIME YOU GO QUESTING FOR A WISE MAN, GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO READ A HUNDRED BOOKS ON TOPICS NOBODY'S EVER HEARD OF! "NUCLEAR FUSION, FISSION, FASHION" --WHO KNOWS?!
ANYWAY, I AM FINISHED AND A GOOD THING, TOO. HOLES OR NO HOLES, THE PAPER'S NEARLY GONE.

YOU'RE FINISHED?!?!


YES, AND ALL I'VE LEARNED POINTS TO THE SAME TRUTH: THE "MISSILE" YOU FEAR IS NOT A LIVE THING YOU CAN FIGHT--IT'S AN OBJECT. THE LARGEST MISSILE I'VE ENCOUNTERED IS A CANNON BALL--WHICH CAN DO SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE BUT CAN'T DECIMATE A POPULATION!
BUT THE SACRED TEACHINGS...

...ARE NOT SACRED! I'VE TOLD YOU AND YOU MUST EXPLAIN TO THE OTHERS.
THAT BOOK CONTAINS THE MUSINGS OF ONE OF YOUR ANCESTORS--WE CALL IT A "JOURNAL" OR "DIARY." IF YOUR PEOPLE BELIEVE THOSE WORDS TO BE PROPHECIES, THEY WILL ALWAYS LIVE IN SUPERSTITIOUS FEAR!

KIRYL, HIS JOURNAL SUGGESTS THAT HE CAME FROM FAR AWAY--EUROPE, I'D THINK, CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF BLUE-EYED BLONDES HERE--AND I BELIEVE, WHEN HE REFERS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS PEOPLE, HE MEANS THE ONES HE LEFT BEHIND, NOT HIS PEOPLE HERE--OR ANY FUTURE GENERATION.

IF WE ARE SAFE FROM DESTRUCTION, WHY HAS THE HERALD RETURNED? WHEN LAST HE CAME, BRINGING EVIL, FIVE OF OUR PEOPLE DIED! ANOTHER ...MY FATHER... SOUGHT THIS DEMON IN THE HAUNTED CAVE ...HE NEVER RETURNED...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THAT'S NO DEMON! IT'S A--
NO!! ONE OF THE CHILDREN! COME BACK!
HUBBY! BRING MY RIFLE!
DON'T LET ME HIT THAT CHILD!
THIS IS YOUR "HERALD," KIRYL. THIS--OR ONE LIKE IT--IS WHAT HAS MAULED AND KILLED THE VILLAGERS OVER THE YEARS.
NOT A DEMON... NOT A MISSILE OR A MONSTER--A CAT.
MY FATHER HAD NO RIFLE, AMBROSE, BUT HE HAD THE DEADLIEST AIM OF US ALL WITH A BOW AND ARROW. NO CAT WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS UNDOING. I SAW THE HERALD TONIGHT...
...AND I REMEMBER TOO WELL HIS LAST VISIT...
KIRYL, I DON'T FEAR THE NIGHT--TOMORROW EVENING, "BIERCE, THE WILD CAT HUNTER" WILL BRAVELY WEND HIS WAY TO THE HAUNTED CAVE AND DISPATCH THE "HERALD." I DON'T IMAGINE HE'S MET A RIFLE BEFORE--I'LL BE THERE WAITING ON HIS DOORSTEP TO INTRODUCE HIM TO THIS ONE.

A ROSE SET IN AMBER--IN HONOR OF YOUR NAME. A TOKEN OF DIMINY'S GRATITUDE--IT WAS HER DAUGHTER YOU SAVED.
I PLAN TO BE BACK SHORTLY, KIRYL... BUT IF I'M NOT, GET RID OF THAT PICTURE TAKEN OF ME IN MEXICO. IF AMERICANS EVER FIND THIS PLACE, I DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW I WAS HERE.
LET 'EM STEW.
"STEW???"
HERE, KITTY, KITTY, KITTY...
WELL, WELL...
YOU!!!
MY GOD!!!
GOD? GOD???
AAAAAHHHG...
...GGGGGHHHHHHH!!!!
WHERE AM...NO, NO, LET ME GUESS. THERE WAS NEVER MUCH DOUBT ABOUT WHERE I'D WIND UP...
...DO I CALL YOU MISTER LUCIFER??